



Federal Bureau of Investigation

Special  
Event  
Threat  
Assessment

# **(U) 2012 Boston Marathon Special Event Threat Assessment**

## **Boston, Massachusetts**

**16 April 2012**



2 April 2012

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Prepared by

**FBI**

**Boston Division**

**(U) 2012 Boston Marathon**  
**Boston, Massachusetts ♦ 16 April 2012**

**(U) Scope Note**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI Boston Intelligence Branch prepared the following SETA for the 2012 Boston Marathon to inform Massachusetts law enforcement, intelligence, and public safety officials of possible threats to this upcoming special event. Information in this assessment is accurate and current as of 2 April 2012. The assessment [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] Comments and queries may be addressed to the FBI Boston Intelligence Branch at [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) This assessment [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The information contained in this assessment is [REDACTED]

**(U) Special Event Assessment Rating Definitions**

(U) This threat assessment uses the [REDACTED]

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(U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

(U) [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) This event has been designated [REDACTED]

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**(U) Executive Summary**

(U) The city of Boston, Massachusetts is hosting the 116<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon on 16 April 2012. The Boston Division has no intelligence reporting to indicate any threats from domestic or international terrorist groups.

(U) There is no reporting that any domestic terrorist or extremist group is planning to stage an attack. No individual or group has indicated intent to disrupt the marathon.

**(U) Event Overview**

(U) The Boston Athletic Association will be hosting the 116<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon on 16 April 2012. Like the past three events, the start of the 2012 race will be staggered. The mobility impaired entrants will begin the race at approximately 9:00am, followed by the wheelchair division, which will begin the race at approximately 9:17am. Following the wheelchair entrants, the elite women will start the race at approximately 9:32am. The rest of the field, including the elite men, will be divided into three separate "waves." Each "wave" will consist of approximately 9,000 participants and have color coded bibs. "Wave 1," to include the elite men, will start the race at 10:00am and will be wearing blue bibs. "Wave 2," to include the rest of the field, will start the race at 10:20am and will be wearing white bibs. "Wave 3" will start the race at 10:40 am and will be wearing red bibs. It is anticipated that the last runner will cross the starting line in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, at 11:00 am. The race will officially end at 6:00pm.

(U) The Boston Marathon will cover a twenty-six mile course starting in Hopkinton, Massachusetts, traveling through Ashland, Framingham, Natick, Wellesley, Newton and Brookline, Massachusetts, before finishing in Boston, Massachusetts. As in years past, the 116<sup>th</sup> Boston Marathon is expected to draw more than one million spectators along the route, with several hundred thousand gathering in Boston, Massachusetts, to watch the finish of the race.

(U) The Boston Athletic Association has limited the field to 27,000 official entrants. This projection does not include the estimated 3,000 unofficial entrants or "bandits." There will be numerous world class athletes from various countries participating in the event. As always, due to the race's popularity, there is the possibility of high profile entrants participating in this year's event.

(U) Security for the event will primarily be the responsibility of the Massachusetts State Police (MSP) and the following towns involved in the race: Hopkinton, Ashland, Natick, Wellesley, Newton, Brookline, and Boston. The Boston Office of the FBI will provide [REDACTED]

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(U) No dignitaries are expected to be in attendance at the Boston Marathon. However, this is subject to change up to the start of the event, as organizers have regularly invited high-profile individuals to the event. Coordination between all agencies will be done in advance to ensure the safety and security of any dignitaries or high-profile individuals present at this venue. [REDACTED]

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<sup>1</sup> (U) [REDACTED]

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**(U) Threats to Sports Venues**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI and DHS released Joint Intelligence Bulletin [redacted]

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[redacted] In addition [redacted]

(U//~~FOUO~~) The Boston Marathon is [redacted] event that will have large number of spectators at various locations throughout the marathon route. There will be [redacted] thus creating [redacted]

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**(U) International Terrorism Threat**

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI has no credible information concerning a threat by groups or individuals to the 2012 Boston Marathon. [redacted]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) Since the 11 September 2001 attacks, Al-Qaeda and affiliated terrorist groups have [redacted] These have included [redacted]

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**(U) Domestic Terrorism Threat**

(U//~~FOUO~~) [redacted]

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[redacted] Currently the FBI has no credible information indicating threats against the 2012 Boston Marathon from any domestic or anti-government individual or group.

(U//~~FOUO~~) It is also important to note that the Boston Marathon occurs on the Massachusetts State Holiday of Patriots Day, a day in which the Commonwealth of Massachusetts recognizes and

<sup>2</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Joint FBI-DHS Intelligence Bulletin [redacted]

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commemorates the first battle of the Revolutionary War. Patriots Day is also the anniversary of the Branch Davidians Compound fire in Waco, Texas in 1993 and the Oklahoma City bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in 1995. [REDACTED]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The FBI has no credible information indicating threats against the Boston Marathon [REDACTED]

#### (U) The Lone Offender Threat

(U//~~FOUO~~) [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED] The recent attack in Toulouse, France by an alleged Al-Qaeda inspired violent extremist illustrates the need for maintaining vigilance and awareness. [REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~) The FBI has not identified any specific lone offenders or extremist groups who pose a terrorist threat to the 2012 Boston Marathon.

#### (U) Attempts to Penetrate Secured Areas

(U//~~FOUO~~) The potential for [REDACTED] is a concern for any public event. Of particular concern is [REDACTED]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) It is known that [REDACTED]

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(U//~~FOUO~~) Security personnel should remain vigilant in their observations of people who are [REDACTED]

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<sup>3</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Joint DHS-FBI Bulletin dated 3 September 2010 "Use of Small Arms: Examining Lone Shooter and Small Arm Tactics"

<sup>4</sup> (U//~~FOUO~~) Joint DHS-FBI Bulletin dated 23 March 2012 "French Attack Highlights Need for Continued Vigilance"

(U) Assessment Summary

(U//~~FOUO~~) At this time, the FBI has no information regarding a credible terrorist threat to the 2012 Boston Marathon [REDACTED]

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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] It is also important for law enforcement to recognize that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] This factor, coupled with the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Law enforcement should also recognize that [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

For questions concerning this assessment please contact the FBI Boston Intelligence Branch [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

(U) Intelligence Gaps

(U//~~FOUO~~)

[REDACTED]

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(U//~~FOUO~~)

[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~)

[REDACTED]

(U//~~FOUO~~)

[REDACTED]

(U) **Administrative Note: Law Enforcement Response** (~~U//FOUO~~) Information contained in this Special Event Threat Assessment is for official use only. No portion of this assessment should be released to the media or the general public. Release of this material could adversely affect or jeopardize investigative activities. Specific comments or suggestions about the content or format of this bulletin can be provided to

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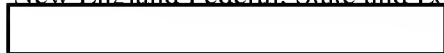
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## FBI Customer Satisfaction Survey

Please take a moment to complete this survey and help evaluate the quality, value, and relevance of our intelligence product. Your response will help us serve you more effectively and efficiently in the future. Thank you for your cooperation and assistance.

### Customer and Product Information

Intelligence Product:

Title: 2012 Boston Marathon\_\_\_\_\_

Report Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Dated: 2 April 2012\_\_\_\_\_

Customer Agency: FBI\_\_\_\_\_

### Relevance to Your Intelligence Needs

1. The product increased my knowledge of an issue or topic. (Check one)

\_\_\_5. Strongly Agree  
\_\_\_4. Somewhat Agree  
\_\_\_3. Neither Agree or Disagree  
\_\_\_2. Somewhat Disagree  
\_\_\_1. Strongly Disagree

### Actionable Value

2. The product helped me decide on a course of action. (Check one)

\_\_\_5. Strongly Agree  
\_\_\_4. Somewhat Agree  
\_\_\_3. Neither Agree or Disagree  
\_\_\_2. Somewhat Disagree  
\_\_\_1. Strongly Disagree

**Timeliness Value**

3. The product was timely to my intelligence needs. (Check one)

- ☐ 5. Strongly Agree
- ☐ 4. Somewhat Agree
- ☐ 3. Neither Agree or Disagree
- ☐ 2. Somewhat Disagree
- ☐ 1. Strongly Disagree

Comments (if any):

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